



# ***CONSERVATION PLANNING***

**on**

# ***GRAZING LANDS***



**“THINGS SURE AIN'T LIKE THEY USED TO BE...**

**AND THEY PROB'LY NEVER WAS”**

*-Elmer Kelton-*



# CONSERVATION PLANNING



is the

# FOUNDATION

for everything we do

**All Conservation Planning is a  
function of the CO-01 Program**

**Anything Else  
is Just  
Program Administration**

# CO-01

The BEST

Most EFFECTIVE

Most EFFICIENT

Program in SCS/NRCS



A person wearing a brown jacket and a blue shirt is standing in a field of tall, dry grass. In the background, a large, intense fire is burning, with bright orange and yellow flames reaching up into the dark sky. The person is looking down at the ground, and their hands are slightly outstretched.

***If I'm not careful,  
I might start a little  
FIRE***

***If I do  
I'll let Brian and Bob put it out***

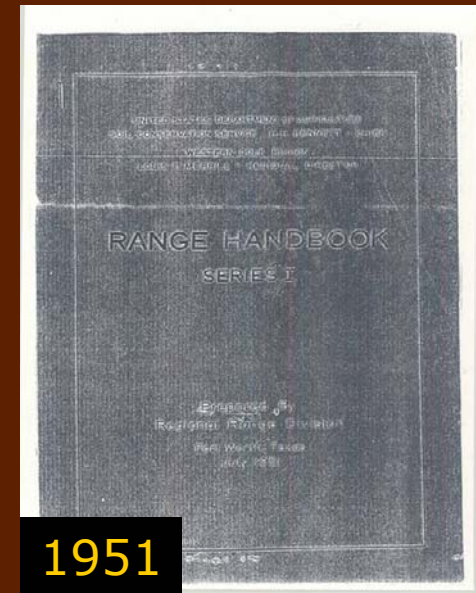
# HISTORY

- **1938** Range Management Handbook
- **1951** Range Handbook, Series I
- **1967** National Handbook for Range and Related Grazing Lands
- **1976** National Range Handbook
- **1997** National Range and Pasture Handbook

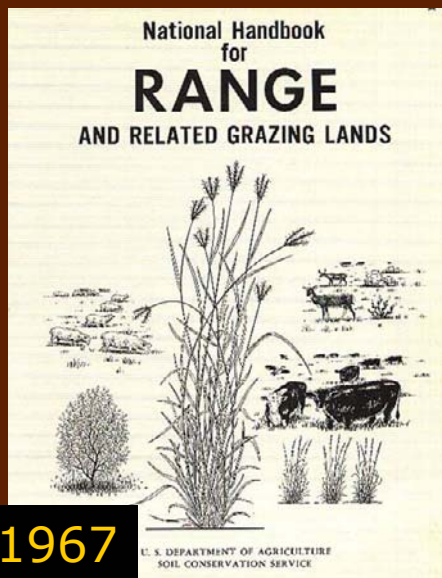
# Range Handbooks



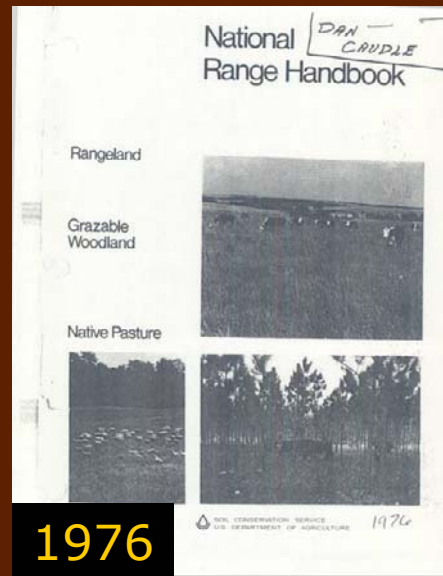
1938



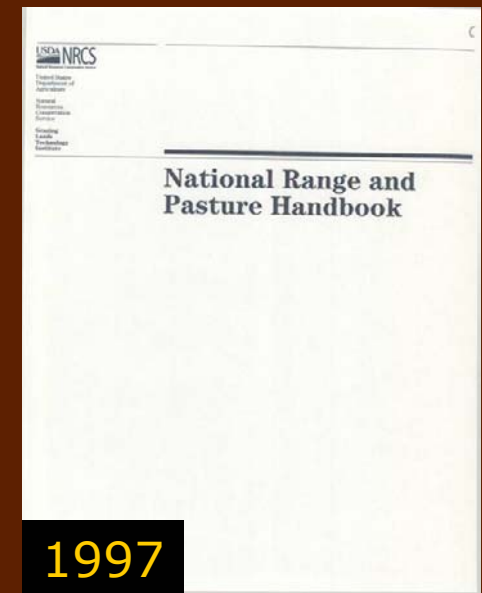
1951



1967



1976



1997



# 1938

## Range Management Handbook

“The very essence of the program of the Soil Conservation Service is that control of erosion requires ***complete treatment of land according to its needs and adaptabilities.***”



“...a ***partial program*** for a given ranch does not meet the essential requirements of a good soil conservation program and is, therefore ***not acceptable.***”

# 1951

## Range Handbook, Series I



“The probability of securing effective effective conservation of range resources depends entirely upon how well operators understand the **fundamental principles and benefits of conservation.**”

It is **necessary**, therefore, that **conservation plans** for rangeland be **prepared by technician and operator**, and that essential features be given **joint consideration while they are going over the operating unit together.**”

# 1951

## Range Handbook, Series I

### Consideration of Farm or Ranch Resources in the Field With Operator



***“Planner should always be accompanied by the person responsible for putting the plan into effect.*** This person may be the owner, operator, manager, or foreman.”



# 1976

## National Range Handbook

“**Sometimes** the development and implementation of a **complete conservation plan is not needed or feasible.**”

“**Conservation planning** for native grazing land is actually a **continuous process.**”

“It is **important** that the **land user participate fully in all phases of planning.**”



# 1976

## National Range Handbook

***“Needs should be recognized and identified, and the conservationist should suggest alternative treatments.***

A common error  
before the land user  
for correction



is to suggest treatment  
fully recognizes the need

The ***conservationist should be frank and businesslike.*** He  
should be ***tactful*** but should ***avoid beating around the bush.***”

# 1976

## National Range Handbook

***Operators need followthrough assistance*** in implementing their plans and in keeping them up-to-date. Now matter how carefully a conservation plan is prepared, it does not result in conservation accomplishments until it is implemented.

***Every operator needs and is entitled to followthrough assistance in applying provisions of his plan*** and in revising his plan to reflect changes in needs and objectives.”



“Followthrough assistance is ***particularly important when the operator is applying his grazing management practices.***”



# 1997

## National Range and Pasture Handbook

“The objectives of conservation planning on grazing lands are to **assist clients to:**

- ***Understand the basic ecological principles*** associated with managing their land – the soil, water, air, plants, and animals.
- ***Realize they are a part of the complex ecosystem*** and that their ***management decisions influence the ecological changes*** that occur.
- ***Realize their responsibilities and importance of protecting the environment and maintaining future options*** for the use of the resource
- ***Develop a plan*** that meets the needs of the soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources and their management objectives”



# 1997

## National Range and Pasture Handbook

**...”proper use of the grazing and browsing animals in managing plant communities is basic to achieving the desired results of an ecologically sound grazing lands conservation plan.”**

**“The major objective on grazing lands is the design and establishment of a grazing management plan** that, when coupled with any necessary facilitating and accelerating practices, will meet the quality criteria established in the local FOTG and the objectives of the client.”



# 1997

## National Range and Pasture Handbook

“NRCS assists clients who own or control the land for which conservation plans are being prepared. It must be understood that:

- **Clients make the decisions**
- **Clients apply the practices and pay for them**
- **NRCS is assisting them** in preparing **their plans**
- **Conservation planning is productive when firm decisions have been made by the client**
- For these reasons it is **important that clients fully participate in all phases of planning.**”





# *ONCE UPON A TIME...*

- Land owners and managers actually welcomed us on to their lands
- They gave us the keys to their gates
- They made fresh pots of coffee because we were coming, and they invited us to stay for lunch
- They valued our technical assistance and guidance
- They didn't expect to get money from a government cost-share program



# *ONCE UPON A TIME...*

- We actually spent time on the land with the producer
- The producer went with us to inventory the resources... not because he didn't trust us by ourselves, but because he wanted to learn from us.
- We were anxious to discuss natural resources and management objectives with the producer to learn about his operation and try to learn from him.



# *ONCE UPON A TIME...*

- We presented alternatives to the producer and he made decisions based on those alternatives
- We provided the producer with a copy of his complete conservation plan and he found it to be a useful management tool
- We “serviced” plans with cooperators frequently to provide them follow-up technical assistance in implementing their plan





**“THINGS ARE NOT LIKE THEY USED TO BE...  
AND THEY NEVER WILL BE AGAIN”**

*-Coy Garrett*



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***Headin' Home***

A wide-angle photograph of a cattle drive in a dry, hilly landscape. A large herd of brown and white cattle is moving from left to right across the frame. Several cowboys on horseback are scattered around the herd, guiding them. The terrain is arid with sparse, dry grass and small shrubs. In the background, there are rolling hills under a blue sky with some clouds. The overall scene captures a traditional cowboy activity in a rugged, natural setting.





